

Town of New Canaan

Registrars of Voters

New Canaan, Ct. 06840

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Government, Administration and Elections Committee

Jan. 28, 2013

In Support Of:

**Raised Bill 431: AAC The Secretary of The State Proclamations of a Civil Preparedness
Emergency And Notice of Legislative Sessions.**

Raised Bill 433: AAC A Connecticut Democracy Index

Raised Bill 5599: AAC Provisional Ballots For State and Municipal Offices

Senators Musto and Jutila, Representatives Meyers and Lesser, and members of the Committee: My name is George Cody, Registrar of Voters, New Canaan, and CO-Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut. On behalf of the organization, I would like to comment on the first of a number of bills relating to elections which will be coming before you this session.

RB 431 Establishes and clarifies the authority and procedures for the Secretary of The State
and

of the Governor to declare a state of emergency and to allow the Secretary of State legal standing to seek Court intervention at the request of both Registrars of a municipality, in the event of a major disaster. ROVAC supports this bill.

RB 433 Would create a Connecticut Democracy Index to evaluate elections and election Management. The index would be defined and managed by the Secretary of The State, with reports going to the legislature, Registrars and Municipal officials. We would hope that Registrars and this committee will have a defined role in determining what is to be included in the index.

RB 5599 Expands the use of Provisional ballots to include State and Municipal elections. The bill transfers from the Town Clerk to the Registrar the distribution of provisional ballots and serial numbered envelopes to Moderators. Both the serial numbered envelopes and the ballot would be prescribed, but not provided, by the Secretary Of The State. Implementation of this provision would clarify the use of Provisional ballots through their use in all elections and is supported by Registrars.

I would like to thank the Committee for their attention and would welcome any questions you may have. As the session moves forward, we look forward to working with the Committee on the other election bills as they come forward. Please do not hesitate to contact our Legislative Committee Chair, Sue Larsen of South Windsor, or our ROVAC President, Melissa Russell of Bethlehem on any of these issues.